



January 28, 2002

Renata Hesse  
Trial Attorney  
Antitrust Division  
Department of Justice  
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse,

I work in the financial services industry (commercial insurance) and have closely watched the impact of the Microsoft lawsuit, particularly its effect on the economy as a whole. I don't believe it is a coincidence that just when the lawsuit was getting underway, our economy began a significant downturn which some say we are just beginning to come out of in recent weeks.

Continuing this lawsuit is only detrimental to the companies involved and the American economy as a whole. It would be far more advantageous to all parties to settle the matter with appropriate safeguards in place to prevent a similar suit in the future. In my opinion this suit did nothing to protect me or other American consumers. In fact it harmed our buying power and the overall strength of the economy.

As I understand the settlement from media reports, Microsoft has agreed to share intellectual property (which I don't think is right or fair) and create software that would allow for more flexibility for competing products to be used within Microsoft's operating system. In addition, a special committee will be formed to ensure compliance with all aspects of the settlement. It seems to be a fair and just compromise. Continuing to cripple Microsoft to allow others to "catch up" is not what our market economy is based upon. The fair opportunity taken advantage of by Microsoft 20 some years ago was open to all, do not further punish them for exercising their opportunity.

Please accept the settlement before you and put this case to rest. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Scott M. Scheidel